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AZ CORP COMMISSION BOCKET CONTROL

BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS

GARY PIERCE, CHAIRMAN PAUL NEWMAN SANDRA D. KENNEDY BOB STUMP BRENDA BURNS Anzona Corporation Commission
DOCKETED

JAN 18 2012



Docket No. E-01345A-11-0224

NOTICE OF FILING AZAG GROUP'S STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

IN THE MATTER OF THE
APPLICATION OF ARIZONA PUBLIC
SERVICE COMPANY FOR A
HEARING TO DETERMINE THE FAIR
VALUE OF THE UTILITY PROPERTY
OF THE COMPANY FOR
RATEMAKING PURPOSES, TO FIX A
JUST AND REASONABLE RATE OF
RETURN THEREON, TO APPROVE
RATE SCHEDULES DESIGNED TO
DEVELOP SUCH RETURN

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Pursuant to Procedural Order dated December 23, 2011, AzAg Group¹ submits the following as its Statement in Support of the Proposed Settlement Agreement that was filed in this docket on January 6, 2012, ("Settlement Agreement"):

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¹ The "AzAg Group" is an informal association the members of which are Aguila Irrigation District, Buckeye Water Conservation and Drainage District, Harquahala Valley Power District, Electrical District Number Seven of Maricopa County, Electrical District Number Eight of Maricopa County, McMullen Valley Water Conservation and Drainage District, Roosevelt Irrigation District, and Tonopah Irrigation District.

The AzAg Group comprises Irrigation, Electrical and Power Districts (the "Districts") that purchase solely wholesale power from Arizona Public Service Company ("APS") under a common Power Supply and Services Agreement ("PSSA") governed and approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. APS charges the Districts for that wholesale power pursuant to a pricing formula in the PSSA that incorporates as an index APS' large industrial retail customer rate E-34. Consequently, changes in the APS E-34 retail rate directly impact the Districts' costs for wholesale purchases from APS. Therefore, the Districts have considered it necessary and appropriate to intervene in APS retail rate cases for the purpose of monitoring and protecting their collective interests in issues affecting the E-34 rate. In this relatively limited capacity, the Districts have not sponsored direct testimony in this docket; however, they have monitored and participated in the settlement discussions conducted by ACC Staff.

Because of the Districts' relatively narrow interest in APS' retail rate cases, in the course of the recent settlement negotiations APS representatives approached AzAg Group's counsel with a conceptual proposal to eliminate the need and expense for the Districts to intervene in APS retail rate cases. APS proposed the development with the Districts of a different pricing index for their PSSA wholesale purchases not linked to the E-34 or other APS retail rates. The Districts responded favorably to that proposal and also raised additional issues not affected by this retail rate case with respect to their PSSA and overall wholesale business relationship, about which the Districts wish to pursue further discussions and possible modifications with APS outside of this rate case.

Having carefully considered the specific effects of the Settlement Agreement provisions on the E-34 rate, and in demonstration of the Districts' good faith in advancing a continuing quality of wholesale business relationship with APS, AzAg Group signed the Settlement Agreement on January 6, 2012, along with ACC Staff and most of the other intervenor parties. Representatives of the Districts and APS have since held an initial meeting discussing their mutual issues and have initiated a process, outside this rate case, aimed at possibly de-linking the Districts' APS wholesale purchase charges from APS retail rates and future retail rate cases.

Accordingly, AzAg Group hereby registers support for the Settlement Agreement.

1 2 Respectfully submitted this 18th day of January, 2012. 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Original and 13 copies filed this 11 18th day of January, 2012, with: 12 **Docket Control** 13 Arizona Corporation Commission 14 1200 West Washington Phoenix, Arizona 85007 15 Copies of the foregoing mailed/e-mailed this 16 18th day of January, 2012 to: 17 Steve Olea, Director 18 **Utilities Division** Arizona Corporation Commission 19 1200 W. Washington 20 Phoenix, AZ 85007 21 Janice Alward, Chief Counsel Legal Division 22 Arizona Corporation Commission 23 1200 W. Washington

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Arizona Corporation Commission

Lyn Farmer Hearing Division

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